

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION :

Please amend page 27, paragraph [0045] as follows:

A fine metal structure was made as a trial product according to the same process as in Example 4 2 except that a colloidal electroless plating catalyst HS202B (produced by Hitachi Chemical Industries Co., Ltd.) was used in place of the molecular electroless plating catalyst. Close observation of the surface of the obtained fine metal structure by a scanning electron microscope detected partial defects on the cylindrical microprojections on the surface of the fine nickel alloy structure. Also, the cylindrical microprojections were cut at intervals of 100 nm from the top end by convergent ion beam machining, and the cut sections were observed by a scanning electron microscope, which revealed the presence of defects such as lots of seams and voids in the inside of the cylindrical microprojections. From the above, it has become evident that a flawless fine metal structure can be produced only when a molecular electroless plating catalyst is applied.

Please amend page 30, paragraph [0049] as follows:

A fine metal structure was made as a trial product according to the same process as in Example 4 3 except that a colloidal electroless plating catalyst HS202B (produced by Hitachi Chemical Industries Co., Ltd.) was used in place of the molecular electroless plating catalyst. Close observation of the surface of the obtained fine metal structure by a scanning electron microscope confirmed partial defects on the cylindrical microprojections on the surface of the fine cobalt alloy structure. Also, the cylindrical microprojections were cut at intervals of 100 nm from the top end by convergent ion beam machining, and the cut sections were observed by a scanning electron microscope, which revealed the presence of defects such as lots of seams and voids in the inside of the cylindrical microprojections. From the

above, it has become evident that a flawless fine metal structure can be produced only when a molecular electroless plating catalyst is applied.

Please amend page 32, paragraph [0053] as follows:

A fine metal structure was made as a trial product according to the same process as in Example ~~4~~4 except that a colloidal electroless plating catalyst HS202B (produced by Hitachi Chemical Industries Co., Ltd.) was used in place of the molecular electroless plating catalyst. Close observation of the surface of the obtained fine metal structure by a scanning electron microscope confirmed partial defects on the cylindrical microprojections on the surface of the fine palladium alloy structure. Also, the cylindrical microprojections were cut at intervals of 100 nm from the top end by convergent ion beam machining, and the cut sections were observed by a scanning electron microscope, which revealed the presence of defects such as lots of seams and voids in the inside of the cylindrical microprojections. From the above, it has become evident that a flawless fine metal structure can be produced only when a molecular electroless plating catalyst is applied.